

F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

Idaho Commerce & Labor recently released the 2005 edition *Idaho Occupation Employment and Wage Survey*. The survey conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data obtained from this survey is now available from Idaho Commerce & Labor in both printed and electronic format. The printed publication can be obtained by contacting:

Public Affairs
Idaho Department of Labor
317 W. Main Street
Boise ID 83735
Phone: (208) 332-3570 ext 3206 or 1-800-772-2553
Email: lmi@cl.idaho.gov

The electronic publication can be found at:

<http://lmi.idaho.gov> – Idaho website
or <http://www.bls.gov/oes/> - BLS national website

The publication consists of the three sections described below:

Introduction: The first section, the introduction, describes the methods, definitions and contents of the survey to aid the reader in understanding and using the wage information provided in this publication.

Wage Tables: The second section includes wage tables for seven geographic areas and the highest and lowest paid occupations. The State of Idaho table provides data based on all 44 Idaho counties. The North Idaho table provides data based on the ten northern counties. The Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) table provides data based on Ada and Canyon Counties in Southwest Idaho. The Southwest excluding Boise MSA table provides data based on the ten Southwest counties excluding Ada and Canyon counties. The South Central table provides data based on the eight counties in south central Idaho. The Pocatello MSA table provides data based on Bannock County in southeastern Idaho. The Eastern Idaho table provides data on the 15 counties in eastern Idaho excluding Ban-

nock County. In each of these tables, the average (mean), entry, midpoint (median), and middle range wage levels are provided in occupational code order. The Cross Regional table provides the mean wage by occupation for the State and each of the six regions. The appendices include an alphabetical list of the occupations, wages for general and operations managers by industry and annual wages for education occupations.

Appendix A - C: The third section consists of three appendices. Appendix A provides an alphabetical listing of occupations to aid in locating specific job titles. Appendix B provides wages for general and operations managers by industry. Appendix C provides the annual wages for education occupations.

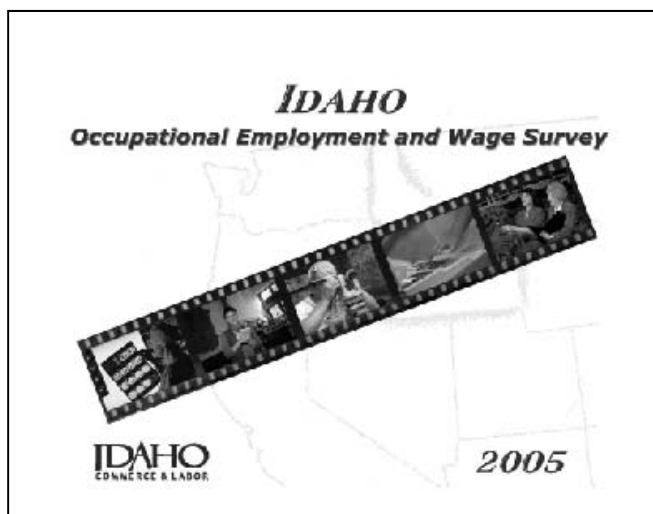
The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Internet site contains a table for each occupation with employment, mean, and median hourly wage, mean annual wage, and the mean relative standard error (RSE). Only the state and MSA data is available at the BLS Internet sites. The wage tables for the seven geographic regions

are available at both the Idaho Commerce & Labor Internet site and in the printed publication. Both the Idaho and BLS Internet sites include definitions for all occupations.

SOC Classification System

Since the survey data is collected on a three year cycle, this is the first release of the wage information where the data results have been collected and released using the Office of Management and Budget's Stan-

dard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system will be used by all federal statistical agencies for reporting occupational data. The SOC system consists of 821 detailed occupations grouped into 449 broad occupations, 96 minor groups, and 22 major groups. The OES program provides occupational employment and wage data at the major group level and detailed occupation level.



Terms

There are four basic terms used in the wage survey.

- The mean is a measure of central tendency and represents the sum of the values of the observations divided by the number of observations; it also is known as the arithmetic average. It is more commonly referred to as the average.
- The median is a measure of central tendency that is not sensitive to values that are far removed from (outlying) the others and which have little effect on the mean. The median represents the value at which one-half of the observations fall below it and one-half are above it. This measure is more commonly referred to as the Mid-point.
- The middle range is a term used to describe the range of wages paid to the middle 50 percent of the workers in a specific occupation. This means that one-fourth the employees are earning wages below the low end of the middle range and one-fourth of the employees are earning wages above the high end. This range provides the user with information regarding the variance of pay within an occupation. It is a measure within which 50 percent of the wage rates fall.

The entry wage is a term that refers to the average wage paid to those in the bottom third of workers in an occupation. This is an imputed wage measure, rather than a surveyed measure.

Highest & Lowest Wages

Nine of the 20 highest-paid occupations were in the *Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations*. The three highest paid occupations, Anesthesiologists, Psychiatrists and Dentists, were paid in excess of \$70 per hour. These same occupations led the way in 2004. Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates, which ranked fourth this year with an average wage of \$70.88. Half of the lowest-paid occupations are in the *Food Preparation & Servicing Occupations*. The lowest average wage, \$6.35, was paid to Hosts & Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop. Waiters & Waitresses followed closely with \$6.62. The wage rates do not include tips, bonuses, benefits, or other payments that could affect the workers' earnings

Janell Hyer, Regional Labor Economist Supervisor
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3220
Email: janell.hyer@cl.idaho.gov